

August 5, 2011

For Immediate Release

The National Association of Extension 4-H Agents selected Moore County Government, Youth Internship Program, as a regional winner in the *Denise Miller 4-H Innovator* category for the Southern Region. The award recognizes and promotes fresh, unique, and innovative work of 4-H and encourages creative thinking to continually “make the best better” for all 4-H programs.

The Moore County Government Internship Program is a collaborative effort between Moore County Administration and Moore County Cooperative Extension. In an effort to educate young people about local government, **Linda Gore**, 4-H Extension Agent, **Eli Arroyo-Allen**, Public Information Officer, and

Mary Phillips

, Office Assistant; planned and implemented a summer career exploration and civic engagement program for youth between the ages of 14 and 21. The Government Internship Program gave participants an opportunity to work with County government officials and perform a service learning project. During the weeks of July 25-29 and August 1-5, ten interns volunteered in various county departments from 9:00am until 4:00pm each day. To complete their internship, participants will assist with the Dixie Youth World Series at Hillcrest Park during the week of August 12-18.

The goal of the program is to help high school and college students gain an understanding and appreciation of how local government impacts their daily lives. The program and activities are designed to develop citizenship skills and encourage participants to become active and involved citizens in the future.

Participating departments included: Aging, IT, EMS, Parks & Recreation, Cooperative Extension, Tax, Board of Elections, Library, Finance, GIS, Veterans, Transportation, and Convention & Visitors Bureau.

For additional information contact Arroyo-Allen at 910-947-6363.

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